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By: Ruth MontalvoDate: March 12, 2001**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Customer No. 026418  
Attorney's Docket No.: JG-SU-5047 / 500577.20023  
U.S. Application No.:  
International Application No.: PCT/JP99/04899  
International Filing Date: SEPTEMBER 09, 1999 09 SEPTEMBER 1999  
Priority Date Claimed: SEPTEMBER 11, 1998 11 SEPTEMBER 1998  
Title of Invention: SMOKING METHOD AND APPARATUS THEREFOR  
Applicant(s) for (DO/EO/US): Mamoru MIYAMORI, Hiroshi HOSHINO, Toshihiko MARUYAMA, Masao HIGUCHI and Hiroshi SAITO

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Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

The above-identified application is filed concurrently herewith, please amend the specification and claims as follows:

After the title and before TECHNICAL FIELD insert the following:

--This application claims Paris Convention priority of Japanese Application No. Hei 10-257765 filed September 11, 1998 and International Application No. PCT/JP00/04899 filed September 11, 1998, the complete disclosure of which is(are) hereby incorporated by reference.--

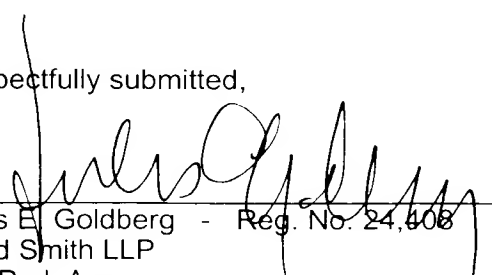
**REMARKS**

The above amendment is submitted to include the cross-referencing of the Japanese priority and the International Application. No new matter is added. Entry into the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

JEG:ram

Tel. (212) 521-5400

  
Jules E. Goldberg - Reg. No. 24,408  
Reed Smith LLP  
375 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10152